

PETER D. ANKENY.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 764.]

JANUARY 24, 1857.

Mr. SAPP, from the Committee on Military Affairs, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of Peter D. Ankeny, of Millersburg, Holmes county, Ohio, respectfully report:

The memorialist entered the service of the country on the 6th day of May, 1847, as an orderly sergeant in Captain T. L. Hart's company, (G,) 4th regiment of Ohio volunteers, to serve during the Mexican war. He repaired with the regiment to Matamoras, Mexico. On the 3d day of September, 1847, upon the death of the captain of the company, he was elected second lieutenant thereof, in which capacity he continued to act until the company was regularly mustered out of service at Cincinnati, Ohio. Whilst in Mexico, in the month of July, 1847, he contracted a disease commonly known as the Mexican diarrhoea, which has become chronic with him, reducing the memorialist from a fine, able bodied man to a thin, sickly and delicate invalid, entirely incompetent, by reason of this disease, to contribute to his own support. The committee subjoin, from the abundant proof laid before it by the memorialist, the evidence of Dr. T. G. V. Boling, a doctor of high character, who was acquainted with the memorialist from his boyhood, and is now cognizant of his disability, which throws great light upon the extent of the same. As to the disease being contracted in the service of the country the evidence is conclusive. The memorialist is now receiving the pension of a private, the department having decided that the disease having been contracted whilst he was only a non-commissioned officer that to that extent alone is he entitled to a pension. The committee can see no force in the reasoning of the department. The disease, it is true, initiated whilst he was a private. He continued in service, each day's service increasing its ravages, and when he was holding the commission of lieutenant it assumed its chronic character and forced him to become a pensioner upon his government. The committee are therefore of the opinion that he should receive the pension usually allowed to the grade of commission he was holding at the time of his leaving the

service. They accordingly report a bill to that effect, which will be the means of relieving a worthy citizen, who, by his devotion to the service of his country, has been reduced to a condition of health from the effects of which he will never be able to recover.

STATE OF OHIO, }
County of Holmes, }*scd.*

Before me, H. G. Saunders, a justice of the peace within and for the county of Holmes and State of Ohio, duly authorized by law to administer oaths therein, personally came Dr. T. G. V. Boling, of said county, to me well known, who after being by me first duly sworn according to law, deposes and says as follows:

I, T. G. V. Boling, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that I am, and from boyhood have been, acquainted with Peter D. Ankeny, who enlisted in the service of the United States as a private in the company commanded by Captain T. L. Hart, of the 4th regiment of Ohio volunteers, in the late war between the United States and Mexico; that his health at the time of said enlistment was good, that he returned home in the latter part of July, A. D. 1848, laboring under a disease commonly called Mexican diarrhœa, with an impaired and broken constitution; that I have been one of his medical attendants for the last three years, the remedies administered have afforded but temporary relief; he has been and is now laboring under an organic disease of the liver, destroying the healthy functions of that organ and vitiating to a great extent the secretions thereof, in connexion with a weakened and partially disorganized condition of the mucous surface of the stomach and bowels, subjecting him to frequent and violent attacks of diarrhœa and crampings of the bowels; he is at no time free from the effects of said disease. All of which is doubtless the result of the diarrhœa contracted in Mexico while in the service of the United States in said war, rendering him, in all probability, a permanent invalid for the remainder of his life, beyond the power of the remedial agents known to the profession; and am satisfied that said disease has so affected his constitution and powers of endurance as to render him wholly unable to obtain his subsistence by manual labor.

And further says, that said applicant has been of temperate habits, and that he has resided with his father's family since he left said service, and that he has not been engaged in any occupation for his subsistence since leaving said service, to the knowledge of affiant. And affiant further states that he resides, and during all of said time has resided, in the same town with said applicant, and is intimately acquainted with him.

T. G. V. BOLING.

Sworn to by T. G. V. Boling, before me, and subscribed by him, in my presence, this 9th day of May, A. D. 1855; and I further certify, that the said T. G. V. Boling is highly respectable in his pro-

fession as a physician and surgeon, and that I have no interest in the result of the application of said Peter D. Ankeny for a pension, and am not concerned in its prosecution.

In testimony whereof, I have hereto set my hand officially, at my office in said county, the day and year last above written.

H. G. SAUNDERS, *J. P.*

THE STATE OF OHIO, *Holmes county*, ss:

I, James M. Dirvers, clerk of the court of common pleas within and for the county of Holmes and State of Ohio, do hereby certify that the above named H. G. Saunders was, on said 9th day of May, A. D. 1855, an acting justice of the peace within and for said county, and now is, and that all his acts, as such, are entitled to full faith and credit; and I further certify, that I have no interest in the result of the application of Peter D. Ankeny for a pension, and that I am not concerned in its prosecution.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said [L. s.] court, at Millersburg in said county, this 9th day of May, A. D. 1855.

JAMES M. DIRVERS, *Clerk.*

